



Please help support this charitable service by donating £3* Text [Ability](tel:0800269545) to 84858



Assessment Service - Individuals

This service is intended to help you as an individual if you have a limiting health condition or disability and wish to use a computer at home for your own personal use.

If you find using a computer uncomfortable or difficult in any way, there is probably a solution AbilityNet can help you find. And if you have never used a computer before, because you think you'll have problems reading the screen, or using the mouse or keyboard, we can introduce you to a whole range of specialist features and adaptations (many of which cost very little) to get round these problems – whatever your age or difficulty.

The Assessment Process

If you have use of a computer you can access our online assessment tool, at www.abilitynet.org.uk/raps. Please follow the link On-Line assessment and this will guide you through some options that may enable you to access the computer more easily.

If you feel that you would like an Assessment from AbilityNet, we will send you a form to complete. This form will ask you for details of your condition and how it affects you. Completing this form will help us to try and identify the best equipment solution for you. You might want to ask a family member, support worker or contact us to help you complete the details of this form. This information will only be used by us to help you.

After we have received this document, it may be appropriate for one of our qualified assessors to contact you.

If a telephone call is found to be appropriate, the assessor may have gathered enough information about your needs to enable them to recommend actions you can take immediately to improve your computer access. These details will be discussed with you and you may then be sent an AbilityNet factsheet, giving details of where to get further information or details of organisations who may be able to offer you the support you are looking for.

We may recommend a variety of equipment for you to try, so that you can experiment to find the best solution before buying. There are vast numbers of special keyboards and mice, and without using them it's almost impossible to know what will best suit your needs.

If you try out the recommendations and find that you are still having problems then please get back in touch with us and we will discuss the best way forward for you.

Alternatively, if the assessor thinks that you require more help he/she may suggest a visit to a local online centre, partnership centre or regional AbilityNet centre. Further Intervention at an AbilityNet or Outreach Centre

If we feel a one-to-one assessment is required then you will be referred to the AbilityNet centre for your area. We have centres in Cambridge, Edinburgh, London, Newcastle, Reading, Warwick, Weybridge and York. We usually offer one and two hour appointments depending on how many solutions need to be trialled. This will be discussed during your initial telephone consultation.

During your assessment you will probably be asked to sit at a computer and work with the assessor on different pieces of software and hardware. At the end of the consultation you may be given factsheets or other printed information to help you make the adaptations discussed. Alternatively, the assessor may need to do some research to find an appropriate solution and will contact you after the appointment with further details.

If you are interested in purchasing a computer and equipment the assessor will arrange to have a quotation sent to you.

Costs

We do not make a charge for an individual assessment but if you found your assessment helpful and are able to make a contribution to our work then we would be grateful for any donation offered. We are a charity and depend on donations to be able to offer our services free to those who need them. Those most in need are often those without access to funding.

To arrange an assessment

For further information or to arrange an assessment contact our advice and information service on 0800 269545 or email enquires@abilitynet.org.uk

* Messages charged at standard rate. You will receive two confirmation messages charged at £1.50 each. AbilityNet will receive your donation net of charges applied by mobile network operators and a processing fee. If you have any questions regarding this service, please call 020 7549 2222.